Charging exorbitant prices for medicines

*90. PROF. I.G. SANADI:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of instances have come to the notice of his Ministry regarding exorbitant prices being charged by companies for their products;

(b) if so, the names of such products and companies;

(c) whether his Ministry has reduced the prices of such medicines including non-schedule formulations under provision 10 (b) of DPCO, 1995 in public interest; and

(d) if so, the names of the products, the reduced prices and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) Like in other commodities, some price increase in the cases of medicines is inevitable. In the case of price controlled medicines, the prices are fixed as per the provisions of DPCO '95. Suo-moto price fixation is being resorted to wherever feasible, invoking para 11 of DPCO '95.

In the case of medicines outside price control, if abnormal increases are noticed, the matter is taken up with the concerned manufacturer for justification of the same. However, para 10 (b) of DPCO '95 has not so far been invoked.

Theft of Antique Items from Temples of Himachal Pradesh

*91. SHRI KRISHANLAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that theft of antique items from temples and from places of archaeological importance in Himachal Pradesh is on the increase during the last three years;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there appears to be a nexus between smugglers and officers of the State Government in this matter; and

(d) whether Government have taken any action to break the nexus; if so, when and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During the last three years, two cases of the theft of antique items have been reported to the Archaeological Survey of India by the Himachal Pradesh Police. However, no case of theft of antique items from temples and places of Archaeological importance which are under protection of the Archaeological Survey of India has been reported.

(b) The details of two cases duly reported are as follows:

(i) The S.P. of Sirmour reported theft of thirty-one idols on 1.5.94 from the Parasu Ram Temple, Dandor near Renuka, Teh. Nahan, District Sirmaur (Himachal Pradesh). These were recovered on 14.6.1994 and were subsequently examined by the Archaeological Survey of India under Section 24 of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972 on 23.6.95 at Shimla. Out of these 31 objects, 28 objects were found to be antiquities.

(ii) The other case was about the recovery of 69 objects by the

Superintendent of Police, District Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh on 3.1.94. These were also examined by the Archaeological Survey of India under Section 24 of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 at Shimla on 10.5.1994. Out of the 69 objects 33 objects were declared to be antiquities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Losses Caused by Floods

*92. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of losses to human lives, standing crops and other properties caused by floods in recent weeks in different States;

(b) the details of Central assistance provided as relief to the affected States; and

(c) the long-term anti flood measures being undertaken by Government in these States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) According to information received from the State Governments, cyclones and floods from June 1995 to date claimed 2,171 lives, damaged crops in 58.97 lakh ha. and caused damage to 19.88 lakh houses in various States.

(b) The following funds were released by the Government of India as Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund and from the National Fund for Calamity Relief from 1st April, 1995 till now.

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	State	Central share of Calamity Relief Fund	National Fund for Calamity Relief
1	Andhra Pradesh	87.91	—
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4.98	—
3	Assam	35.40	—
4	Bihar	36.78	—
5	Goa	0.57	—
6	Gujarat	74.11	—
7	Haryana	17.74	39.41
8	Himachal Pradesh	14.31	—
9	Jammu & Kashmir	13.95	18.17
10	Karnataka	29.62	—
11	Kerala	29.41	—
12	Madhya Pradesh	27.12	—
13	Maharashtra	36.21	—